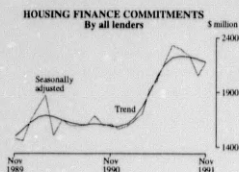


Statistics Weekly

Thursday, 30 January 1992

The week in statistics ...

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- ☐ Manufacturing in December ... 4
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Housing finance statistics present mixed picture

After three consecutive months of decline, seasonally adjusted housing finance recorded an increase of \$128.2 million (6.3%) in the value of commitments for November 1991.

The number of dwelling units for which finance was committed also rose, by 7.4 per cent to 29,731, an increase of 27 per cent over the November 1990 figure.

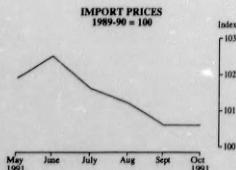
All three lending categories recorded increases: finance for the construction of dwellings was up by 4.1 per cent, finance for the purchase of newly erected dwellings was up by 15.8 per cent and finance for the purchase of established dwellings was up by 6.1 per cent.

Despite the November increase in commitments, trend estimates show a downward trend over the last three months. Trend estimates for the most recent months are subject to revision as more recent data comes to hand.

HOUSING FINANCE COMMITMENTS
NOVEMBER 1991
Seasonally adjusted

Purpose of commitment	\$ million	Percentage change from	
		Previous month	Corresponding month of previous year
Construction of dwellings	349.0	4.1	11.8
Purchase of newly erected dwellings	124.7	15.8	13.0
Purchase of established dwellings	1,703.1	6.1	43.6
Total	2,176.8	6.3	35.3

For further information, order the publication *Housing Finance for Owner Occupation, Australia (5609.0)*, or contact Mark Dennis on (06) 252 7129 or John Carson on (06) 252 7110.



Import prices flat in October

The Import Price Index showed no change between September and October 1991.

Small increases in prices for some items such as road vehicles, and petroleum and petroleum products were offset by decreases in others.

The most significant fall was for office machines and automatic data processing machines.

The wide range of price changes for different commodities is shown below.

IMPORT PRICES, OCTOBER 1991

<i>Selected items</i>	<i>Percentage change from previous month</i>
Mineral fuels	1.9
Machinery and transport equipment	0.1
Miscellaneous manufactured goods	-0.1
Chemicals	-0.1
Crude materials	-0.2
Manufactured goods	-0.7
Food and live animals	-1.1
<i>All items</i>	<i>0.0</i>

For further information, order the publication *Import Price Index, Australia* (6414.0), or contact Geoff Brown on (06) 252 5348.

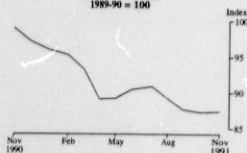
Export prices creep up in November

Export prices rose 0.1 per cent between October and November 1991.

Price increases were recorded in November for about half the items in the index. The largest price rises were for petroleum products, wheat and beef. These increases were partly offset by price decreases for about one-third of the items in the index. The only significant decrease recorded was for wool.

On an annual basis, export prices fell by 11.7 per cent between November 1990 and November 1991.

EXPORT PRICES
1989-90 = 100

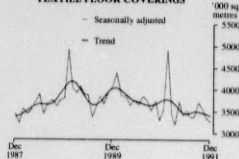


EXPORT PRICES, NOVEMBER 1991 Percentage change

<i>Commodity</i>	<i>From previous month</i>	<i>From corresponding month of previous year</i>
Live animals and animal products	1.6	-1.8
Motor vehicles, aircraft and vessels	-0.8	-2.4
Vegetable products	1.8	-3.8
Machinery and appliances	0.2	-5.1
Prepared food stuffs	-1.8	-6.3
Gold, diamonds and coin	1.4	-7.0
Mineral products	1.9	-9.1
Products of chemicals or allied industries	-0.1	-16.3
Base metals	0.4	-20.2
Wool and cotton fibres	-7.8	-31.4
<i>All exports</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>-11.7</i>

For further information, order the publication *Export Price Index, Australia* (6405.0), or contact Peter Cordy on (06) 252 5541.

TEXTILE FLOOR COVERINGS



Manufacturing in December ...

The publication *Manufacturing Production, Australia, Preliminary* (8301.0) contains up-to-date time series data on the production of twenty-seven major indicators of production (twenty-five seasonally adjusted). The indicator commodities have been selected to give a broad industry representation of the manufacturing sector and are part of a much larger range of commodity items published in the series of ten Manufacturing Production Bulletins.

In the table below, the 'previous year' column is a generally more reliable guide to trends, but should be read in conjunction with the more detailed data presented in the monthly publications, as the production of manufacturing commodities can vary quite significantly on a month-to-month basis, even after seasonal adjustment.

MANUFACTURING PRODUCTION

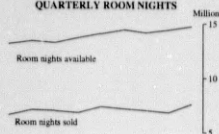
DECEMBER 1991

Seasonally adjusted, percentage change

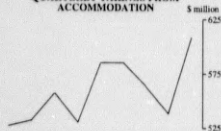
Product	From previous month	From corresponding month of previous year
Domestic refrigerators	6.2	20.3
Other confectionery	4.9	11.9
Cotton yarn	20.7	11.5
Woven cotton fabric (including towelling)	23.6	9.1
Chocolate based confectionery	16.5	9.1
Basic iron, spiegeleisen and sponge iron	20.2	7.9
Iron and steel in ingots or other primary forms	33.7	7.2
Gas available for issue through mains	-0.7	6.8
Cigarettes and tobacco	-9.3	3.0
Woven wool fabric (including blanketing)	10.7	1.1
Electricity	0.5	-0.4
Wool yarn	-9.8	-3.0
Clay bricks	0.6	-5.0
Electric motors	-9.5	-5.3
Blooms and slabs, from rolling and forging	3.7	-6.5
Textile floor coverings	-2.7	-6.9
Beer	-6.5	-7.3
Television sets	-1.6	-7.4
Woven man-made fibre fabric	1.4	-8.0
Domestic clothes washing machines	-11.3	-10.2
Portland cement	-9.8	-15.1
Cars and station wagons	-10.0	-19.8
Motor vehicles for goods and materials	0.4	-26.8
Sulphuric acid; oleum	-12.8	-27.9
Petrol-rotary type lawn mowers	-6.8	-29.2

TOURIST ACCOMMODATION Hotels, motels and guest houses

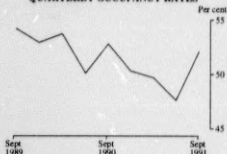
QUARTERLY ROOM NIGHTS



QUARTERLY TAKINGS FROM ACCOMMODATION



QUARTERLY OCCUPANCY RATES



Tourist accommodation: capacity continues to increase

The number of rooms available in hotels, motels and guest houses Australia-wide increased by 4.7 per cent between September quarter 1990 and September quarter 1991. Increases were recorded in all States and Territories except Western Australia and the ACT.

However, because room nights occupied increased at a lower rate (3.1%) during the period, the room occupancy rate fell marginally from 52.8 per cent to 52.1 per cent.

Rooms available in four-star hotels and motels increased by 31.3 per cent, while room nights occupied for the same establishments rose by 34.7 per cent. For one-star hotels and motels the rooms available fell by 15.7 per cent and room nights occupied fell by 19.5 per cent. For other star gradings, changes in supply and demand were relatively small.

Nationally, the number of guest arrivals increased slightly (0.9%), although only Queensland, Victoria and Western Australia recorded increases. Average length of stay remained steady at 2.0 days.

Takings from accommodation increased by 4.0 per cent to \$608.5 million, while the average takings per room night sold increased from \$79 to \$80 (0.9%). During this same period, the Consumer Price Index increased by 3.3 per cent.

TOURIST ACCOMMODATION: HOTELS, MOTELS AND GUEST HOUSES September quarter 1991

Percentage change from same period of previous year

State	Rooms		Guest arrivals	Takings from accommodation
	Available	Nights occupied		
New South Wales	7.4	-0.9	-2.3	-4.7
Victoria	6.0	2.2	0.8	5.1
Queensland	3.4	11.4	8.4	16.9
South Australia	3.0	-1.5	-5.3	3.6
Western Australia	-0.1	3.7	3.5	5.9
Tasmania	4.2	-1.0	-2.0	3.9
Northern Territory	1.6	0.4	-4.4	6.1
Australian Capital Territory	-1.7	-5.7	-0.3	-4.1
Australia	4.7	3.1	0.9	4.0

For further information, order the publication *Tourist Accommodation, Australia* (8635.0), or contact John Alexander on (07) 222 6215.

Industrial disputes in brief ...

In the twelve months ending September 1991 there were 1,149 disputes in progress involving 935,500 employees and the loss of 1,563,900 working days. The number of disputes was the lowest recorded for any period of twelve consecutive months since the measure was first compiled on a monthly basis in December 1981.

Source: *Industrial Disputes, Australia, September 1991* (6321.0).

Inquiries

The ABS supplies a wide range of statistical information:

- ☐ through its bookshops
- ☐ by mail order
(including subscription)
- ☐ by facsimile
- ☐ electronically.

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Suggestions

Any suggestions for improvement to this publication should be addressed to:

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Editor
Statistics Weekly
(06) 252 6104

Statistics Weekly
30 January 1992

All the week's releases: 22 to 28 January

General

Publications Advice, 24 January 1992 (1105.0; free)
Publications Advice, 28 January 1992 (1105.0; free)
Monthly Summary of Statistics, Aust., January 1992 (1304.0; \$20.00)
Statistics Weekly, 23 January 1992 (1318.0; \$4.20)
Economic Indicators, WA, January 1992 (1307.5; \$6.00)
Tasmanian Statistical Indicators, January 1992 (1303.6; \$9.50)

Demography

Deaths, NSW, 1990 (3312.1; \$14.00) — *new issue*
Demographic History of Queensland, 1859 to 1989 (3104.3; \$50.00)

National accounts, finance and foreign trade

Housing Finance for Owner Occupation, Aust., November 1991 (5609.0; \$10.50)
State Estimates of Private New Capital Expenditure, September Qtr 1991 (5646.0; \$10.50)
Government Finance Statistics, Tas., 1989-90 (5501.6; \$12.50)

Labour statistics and prices

Export Price Index, Aust., November 1991 (6405.0; \$8.00)
Import Price Index, Aust., October 1991 (6414.0; \$8.00)
Labour Force, SA, November 1991 (6201.4; \$16.00)

Agriculture

Livestock Products — Meat, Qld, November 1991 (7204.3; \$5.00)

Secondary industry and distribution

Manufacturing Production, Aust., December 1991, Preliminary (8301.0; \$10.50)
Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Household Appliances and Electrical Equipment, November 1991 (8357.0; \$8.00)
Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Fibres, Yarns, Fabrics, Bedding and Floor Coverings, November 1991 (8360.0; \$10.50)
Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Plastics, Rubber, Paints, Detergents and Industrial Chemicals, November 1991 (8362.0; \$8.00)
Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Metal Products, November 1991 (8367.0; \$6.00)
Census of Mining Establishments: Details of Operations by Industry Class, Aust., 1989-90 (8402.0; \$21.00)
Actual and Expected Private Mineral Exploration, Aust., September Qtr 1991 (8412.0; \$10.00)
Dwelling Unit Commencements Reported by Approving Authorities, Qld, July 1991 (8741.3; \$10.50)
Dwelling Unit Commencements Reported by Approving Authorities, WA, October 1991 (8741.5; \$10.50)

Transport

Motor Vehicle Registrations, Aust., November 1991 (9303.0; \$10.50)
Motor Vehicle Registrations, Aust., 1990-91 (9304.0; \$20.00)
Motor Vehicle Registrations, WA, November 1991 (9303.5; \$7.50)
Bicycles, Urban NT, 1991 (9215.7; \$10.00) — *new issue*

Calendar of key releases

Expected releases over the fortnight to 11 February 1992

January

- [29]** Consumer Price Index, December Quarter 1991 (6401.0; \$11.50)
 Price Index of Materials Used in House Building, Six State Capital Cities and Canberra, November 1991 (6408.0; \$8.00)
 Price Index of Materials Used in Manufacturing Industries, Australia, November 1991 (6411.0; \$10.50)
 Registrations of New Motor Vehicles, Australia, December 1991, Preliminary (9301.0; \$10.50)
- [30]** Price Index of Materials Used in Building Other Than House Building, Eight Capital Cities, November 1991 (6407.0; \$10.50)
- [31]** Price Indexes of Articles Produced by Manufacturing Industry, Australia, November 1991 (6412.0; \$10.50)

February

- [3]** Balance of Payments, Australia, December 1991 (5301.0; \$16.00)
 Building Approvals, Australia, December 1991 (8731.0; \$13.00)

The latest ...

Changes to key State indicators — consolidated to
 28 January 1992

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
— Percentage change from same period previous year —									
New capital expenditure (Sept. qtr 91)*	-11.4	-19.5	-15.7	1.3	-11.6	-24.0	n.a.	n.a.	-14.1
Retail turnover (Nov. 91) (trend estimate)	4.7	3.4	5.2	3.7	7.0	1.8	n.a.	13.7	4.4
New motor vehicle registrations (Nov. 91)† (a)	-10.5	-13.2	-10.0	-12.8	9.9	-15.0	-9.9	-21.5	-9.6
Number of dwelling unit approvals (Nov. 91)	-10.3	-13.2	27.2	-19.5	8.5	-0.6	123.2	33.1	0.6
Value of total building work done (Sept. qtr 91)	-10.1	-34.2	-7.1	-24.4	-18.7	8.6	-9.6	0.5	-17.2
Employed persons (Dec. 91)*	-2.6	-3.6	1.6	-4.3	-0.7	-3.3	3.8	0.1	-2.0
Capital city consumer price index (Sept. qtr 91)	2.8	3.9	3.3	4.1	1.9	3.6	3.3	3.7	3.3
Average weekly earnings (full-time adult ordinary time) (Aug. 91)	5.1	4.3	4.3	5.6	6.9	4.1	6.9	4.9	4.9
Population (June 91)	1.3	1.1	2.2	1.2	2.0	0.9	1.0	2.9	1.5
Room nights in licensed hotels and motels, etc. (Sept. qtr 91)	-0.9	2.2	11.4	-1.5	3.7	-1.0	0.4	-5.7	3.1

* Seasonally adjusted except for NT and ACT. † Seasonally adjusted except for Tas., NT and ACT.
 (a) Refer to footnote (e) on next page.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE
 Seasonally adjusted
 December 1991



Key national indicators – consolidated to 28 January 1992

			Latest figure available		Percentage change (a) on	
			Original	Seasonally adjusted	Previous period	Corresponding period last year
Period						
National production						
Gross domestic product	— current prices	\$m	Sept. qtr 91	94,473	94,688	1.0
	— 1984-85 prices			62,900	63,396	-0.3
Industrial activity						
New capital expenditure	— current prices	\$m	Sept. qtr 91	6,231	6,475	-0.4
	— 1984-85 prices			4,817	5,012	0.5
Expected new capital expenditure		"	Three months to Dec. 91	7,056	n.a.	n.a.
Retail turnover	— current prices	"	Nov. 91	8,051.6	7,714.3	-1.1
	— 1984-85 prices	"	Sept. qtr 91	14,915.3	15,486.9	2.9
New motor vehicle registrations (e) (f)		no.	Nov. 91	41,815	42,074	5.2
Dwelling unit approvals		"	Nov. 91	11,961	11,367	-4.5
Value of all building approvals		\$m	"	1,623	1,571	-16.1
Value of total building work done	— current prices	"	Sept. qtr 91	6,026	5,825	-8.2
	— 1984-85 prices	"	"	3,828	3,701	-7.8
Manufacturers' sales	— current prices	"	Sept. qtr 91	36,453	35,729	2.6
	— 1984-85 prices	"	"	25,305	24,860	2.8
Expected manufacturers' sales		"	Three months to Dec. 91	37,652	n.a.	n.a.
Labour						
Employed persons		'000	Dec. 91	7,779.5	7,689.4	0.5
Unemployment rate †		%	"	10.6	10.6	0.1
Participation rate †		"	"	64.0	63.3	0.3
Job vacancies		'000	Nov. 91	24.9	25.8	2.8
Average weekly overtime per employee		hours	"	1.14	1.06	-9.7
Prices, profits and wages						
Consumer price index (f)	1980-81 = 100.0	Sept. qtr 91	215.7	n.a.	0.6	3.3
Price index of materials used in manufacturing industries (f)	1984-85 = 100.0	Oct. 91	118.7	n.a.	0.3	-11.5
Price index of articles produced by manufacturing industry	1988-89 = 100.0	Oct. 91	111.2	n.a.	0.1	-1.0
Company profits before income tax	\$m	Sept. qtr 91	2,982	2,841	21.2	-17.9
Average weekly earnings (Full-time adults; ordinary time)	\$	Aug. 91	567.70	n.a.	1.2	4.9
Interest rates (b) (monthly average)						
90-day bank bills †	% per annum	Oct. 91	8.70	n.a.	-0.85	-4.10
10-year Treasury bonds †		"	9.80	n.a.	-0.50	-3.55
Balance of payments						
Exports of merchandise	\$m	Nov. 91	4,563	4,557	6.4	4.3
Imports of merchandise	"	"	4,613	4,585	9.6	7.9
Balance on merchandise trade (c)	"	"	-50	-28	n.a.	n.a.
Balance of goods and services (c)	"	"	-173	-243	-219.7	-62.0
Balance on current account (c)	"	"	-1,556	-1,692	-23.2	-5.2
Terms of trade (d)	1984-85 = 100.0	Sept. qtr 91	n.a.	99.7	-0.7	-4.6
Foreign investment						
Net foreign debt	\$m	30 Sept. 91	133,480	n.a.	-1.6	3.5
Net foreign liabilities		"	182,282	n.a.	2.8	7.1
Exchange rates (monthly average)						
SUS	per SA	Nov. 91	0.7864	n.a.	-0.9	1.5
Trade weighted index	May 1970 = 100.0	"	59.0	n.a.	-2.0	5.0
Other indicators						
Population (resident at end of qtr)	million	June 91	17.3	n.a.	0.3	1.5
Overseas visitor arrivals	'000	Oct. 91	216	215	-4.3	14.5

(a) Based on seasonally adjusted figures where available. (b) Source: Reserve Bank of Australia. (c) For percentage changes, a minus sign indicates an increase in the deficit; no sign means a decrease in the deficit or an increase in the surplus. (d) The ratio of the price of goods and services for exports to that for imports. (e) November 1991 is not strictly comparable with November 1990 due to the introduction by motor vehicle registration authorities of a more accurate identification and classification system. (f) Later figures expected to be released Wednesday, 29 January 1992.

NOTES: † = change is shown in terms of percentage points. n.a. = not available.

Figures have been taken from a variety of ABS publications. Copies may be obtained from Information Services (see page 6).

Some of the figures shown are preliminary, some final, and some are revisions of previously published figures. Users should check the latest relevant publication or with the ABS Information Services if the status of the statistic is important.

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